

Beaver Creek Trail

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



Horsfeld airstrip to Chisana



Maps: USGS Maps-Nabesna (A-1, A-2, A-3), McCarthy (D-2) 1:63,360; Nabesna 1:250,000

Distance/Time: There are various day/overnight hikes of different lengths that can be done from these airstrips. Completing the Beaver Creek route from Horsfeld airstrip to Chisana is 20 miles, 4-8 days.

Access: Fly in to the Horsfeld airstrip. Air taxi services may be obtained from operators in Tok, Glennallen or Nabesna.

Highlights: A remote route, spectacular scenery, tundra hiking, wildlife, fishing, public cabin in Chisana.

Route:

From the Horsfeld Airstrip, the route follows gentle terrain along the Beaver Creek drainage. The route follows a well defined trail most of the way, but it may disappear occasionally due to high vegetation. Portions of the route may be very wet and there are several stream crossings. The trail ends at Chisana, site of the last great gold rush in 1913. In Chisana, the renovated Too Much Johnson Cabin is available for public use (first-come first-served, 14 day limit).

Potential Hazards: During the spring, creek levels can be low in the morning and impassable by late afternoon. Heavy rainstorms can quickly raise the creek levels. Bears may be present in the area. Travel in this area should be done only by experienced parties in good physical condition. One should also be able to read and follow a map and compass. This is a remote area and help is not readily available.

